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HOUSE BILL 1677

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Rodne, Dunshee, Ormsby, B. Sullivan, Hurst, Chase, Hunt, P. Sullivan, Pettigrew, Lovick, Jarrett, McCoy, Anderson, Upthegrove, Santos, Sells, Conway and Rolfes

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to outdoor education and recreation; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 79A.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature to  
5 establish an outdoor education and recreation program to improve  
6 students' performance on the essential academic learning requirements  
7 for science through participation in outdoor educational and  
8 recreational opportunities. Further, it is the intent of the program  
9 to recognize the resulting benefit of improved student health through  
10 involvement in outdoor recreation.

11           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.05 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13           (1) The outdoor education and recreation grant program is hereby  
14 created, subject to the availability of funds in the outdoor education  
15 and recreation account. The commission shall establish and implement  
16 the program by rule to provide opportunities for public agencies and  
17 private organizations and individuals to participate in the outdoor  
18 education and recreation program. Eligible applicants to the

1 commission's grant program shall include existing and new programs.  
2 Participating school programs shall be fully aligned with the state's  
3 essential academic learning requirements for science.

4 (2) The program shall be phased in beginning with the schools and  
5 students with the greatest needs in suburban, rural, and urban areas of  
6 the state. The program shall focus on students who qualify for free  
7 and reduced-price lunch, who are most likely to fail academically, or  
8 who have the greatest potential to drop out of school.

9 (3) The director shall set priorities and develop criteria for the  
10 awarding of grants to outdoor education and recreation programs  
11 considering at least the following:

12 (a) Programs that contribute to the reduction of academic failure  
13 and dropout rates;

14 (b) Programs that make use of nationally accredited environmental  
15 education curriculum;

16 (c) Programs that contribute to healthy life styles through outdoor  
17 recreation and sound nutrition;

18 (d) Various Washington state parks as venues and use of the  
19 commission's personnel as a resource;

20 (e) Programs that maximize the number of participants that can be  
21 served;

22 (f) Programs that will commit matching and in-kind resources; and

23 (g) Programs that create partnerships with public and private  
24 entities.

25 (4) The director shall create an advisory committee to assist and  
26 advise the commission in the development and administration of the  
27 outdoor education and recreation program. The director should solicit  
28 representation on the committee from the office of the superintendent  
29 of public instruction, the department of fish and wildlife, the  
30 business community, outdoor organizations with an interest in  
31 education, and any others the commission deems sufficient to ensure a  
32 cross section of stakeholders. When the director creates such an  
33 advisory committee, its members shall be reimbursed from the outdoor  
34 education and recreation program account for travel expenses as  
35 provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

36 (5) The outdoor education and recreation program account is created  
37 in the custody of the state treasurer. Funds deposited in the outdoor  
38 education and recreation program account shall be transferred only to

1 the commission to be used solely for the commission's outdoor education  
2 and recreation program purposes identified in this section including  
3 the administration of the program. The director may accept gifts,  
4 grants, donations, or moneys from any source for deposit in the outdoor  
5 education and recreation program account. Any public agency in this  
6 state may develop and implement outdoor education and recreation  
7 programs. The director may make grants to public agencies and contract  
8 with any public or private agency or person to develop and implement  
9 outdoor education and recreation programs. The outdoor education and  
10 recreation program account is subject to allotment procedures under  
11 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
12 expenditures.

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